



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019, 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

PRESENT: Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Regular Members Sean Dwyer (arrived at 7:04 pm), Robert Zielfelder, James Gage, Laurie Burstein (arrived at 7:04 pm) and George Nickerson, and Alternate Ann Harford

ABSENT: Vice Chairman David Bidwell

STAFF: Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner and Barbra Galovich, Recording Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:01pm.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (On Non-Agenda Items): None

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Sustainable Ellington Initiative

1. Ellington High School AP Environmental Science class presentation regarding PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination in drinking water.

Chairman Quarno announced the Ellington High School students have joined the meeting to talk about polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The following AP Environmental Science seniors were present: Olivia Santini, Danielle Giacalone, Ariana Bahavar, Rayna Bidwell and Eva Cohen, along with their teacher Ben Giory.

The seniors explained as part of their class was to research the ecosystem and they decided to focus on PFAS chemicals. They discussed the dangers of the chemical and PFAS was found in the old landfill located at 217 Sadds Mill Road. The students reached out to different resources and combined their findings, such as contacting government officials, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and CT Water Company. They noted that not many laboratory facilities are equipped to test PFAS in Connecticut. The students explained Representative Chris Davis provided them with information about particular bills pertaining to PFAS that did not pass legislative approval process.

Chairman Quarno invited the group to join the Conservation Commission and CT Water Company at the Farmers' Market on Saturday, October 5, 2019, for Go Green Day. The group asked if the Conservation Commission had any ideas on how to help

the community become aware of this issue. The Planning Department offered to help distribute their brochure at the Library, Town Hall buildings, and Senior Center and add their brochure to the Conservation Commission website.

Chairman Quarno requested to go out of agenda order and address item 2b first.

2. Sustainable Ellington Initiative
b. 2.7 Provide Education on Water Conservation

Ms. Houlihan showed the new banner for the Conservation Commission to use at the Farmers' Market on Saturday and for other events they may attend. She also shared with the Commission the handouts, water kits and water tabs to detect any leaks that Dan Meaney of Connecticut Water Company will bring to the Farmers' Market. They discussed making coloring handouts for the kids rather than spending an excessive amount of money to purchase. Ms. Houlihan stated she provided Dianne Trueb with a write up for the Farmers' Market.

i. Connecticut Water Company, Watershed Inspection Program Scavenger Hunt

Ms. Houlihan explained the CT Water Company will host a Watershed Scavenger Hunt hike on Saturday, October 10, 2019, at 10:00 am within the vicinity of Shenipsit Lake.

a. 2.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory

The commission received a draft of the Geology and Soils sections of the Natural Resource Inventory from Commissioner Nickerson and Commissioner Gage. The Commission asked if the two drafts could be combined for review next month. Commissioner Gage suggested adding wetlands and ridgelines to the section.

2. Update – Ellington Hockanum River Committee: Harford/Nickerson – Leads

a. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee – Monthly agenda/minutes

The commission received a copy of the Ellington Trails Committee minutes from September 4, 2019.

Commissioner Harford reported repairs are being made around the pond of the Hockanum River Trail.

Mr. Tom Palshaw, 120 Pinney Street, trail volunteer, was present at the meeting and talked about an organization called Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. He stated the Hartford Foundation of Public Giving will hold a meeting at the Ellington Library on October 7th to inform residents about applying for a grant to help residents maintain trails within their town. The grant is not through the municipality.

3. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program: Gage/Staff – Leads

Nothing to report.

4. Report - Open Space Preservation Program: Gage – Lead

Commissioner Gage said the Northern Connecticut Land Trust (NCLT) purchased the Pearl property from the Town. The parcel is about twelve acres and located between state forest land and NCLT land. The parcel was part of an estate, but was not picked up through estate settlement and has been accumulating back taxes since 1967.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY 19-20 Budget Expenditure Update
2. Approval of the September 3, 2019 regular meeting minutes

MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 AS WRITTEN.

3. Correspondence:
 - a. CIRMA – Understanding Workplace Violence & Prevention Strategies – Town of Ellington Employees, Board, Commission and Committee Members, October 29, 2019, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, location: Town Hall Annex Building
 - b. CACIWC Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference in Cromwell, CT – Saturday, November 23, 2019
 - c. Landmark newsletter of the Northern Connecticut Land Trust September 2019

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (ZIELFELDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbra Galovich, Recording Clerk